RPM Tips & Tricks:
AuctionRPM - Using Windows 7, Vista, and XP Computers Together

AuctionRPM is designed to run on any computer with the following operating systems: Windows 7, Vista, and XP.

With AuctionRPM, there is one 'Main' computer. This computer holds the 'Main' AuctionRPM database in a shared folder. Every other computer is known as a 'Satellite' – they are networked to the 'Main' computer and, as such, have instant access to the 'main' database data. In this manner, AuctionRPM becomes an instantaneous source of the latest data possible. There is never a wait between bid entry, cashiering and payment of consignors.

AuctionRPM strongly recommends hard-wired network connections, guaranteeing the fastest, most reliable network connections possible. Even if working OK at home or office under ideal conditions, wireless connections may or may not be as reliable under actual auction house conditions, with potentially both physical and environmental changes as seen during the auction. Plus, the computer may 'lag' in receiving responses from the main computer. That being said, wireless networking may also work OK. Please be aware of any performance issues.

If you are planning to purchase new computers:

Satellite Computers:

As of this writing, the new computer will have Windows 7 installed. Be sure that it is loaded with a minimum of 4GB RAM. Four gigabytes of Random Access Memory (RAM) will assure enough memory for all programs as well as the operating system to function efficiently.

Current microprocessors from Intel are marked as I3, I5, and I7. The larger the number, the faster the processor. For satellite computers, any processor (with 4GB of RAM) will work. If planning to have several satellites connected to the 'Main' computer (that holds the AuctionRPM database), then a faster 'main' processor (and additional RAM memory) will be of essential value. An I7 with 8GB of RAM (or more) will certainly enhance the AuctionRPM experience.

All Windows 7 editions claim to support up to 20 satellite computers. It may be preferable to use Windows 7 Premium or Windows 7 Ultimate packages to support more than 5 satellites. Steer clear of Windows 7 Basic.

Setting up Windows 7 / Windows Vista / Windows XP for use with AuctionRPM

Note: **Perform only those computer modifications that you are qualified to perform. Symmetric Software is not responsible for any problems that may result from any computer modifications. If in doubt, call Symmetric Software for help.**

First, assure that:
- AuctionRPM has been installed on each computer, and that
- AuctionRPM's registration code has been entered.
- All computers can access each other on your network (file access instructions are found below).
- The network has been properly assembled.
- All computers are members of the same named workgroup.
- All computer(s) are updated to the latest Microsoft update. If the computer is not already configured to automatically update, click on 'start – control panel – windows update', and be taken to Microsoft's update

website. There may be multiple updates to be installed, so do not assume that only
a single update is all that is required.

Use the following guide to finish the project…

1) **Windows 7 and Vista – Both Main and Satellites: Set up Network and Sharing options:**

In 'Control Panel - Network and Internet – Network and Sharing Center', click on 'Choose Homegroup and Sharing
Options – Change advanced sharing settings' (Windows 7) or the option itself (Vista):

Network Discovery -   'Turn on network discovery'
File and Printer Sharing - 'Turn on file and printer sharing'
Public Folder Sharing -   'Turn on public file sharing so anyone with network access can read and write files'
File Sharing Connections – 'Enable file sharing for devices that use 40- and 56- bit encryption'
Homegroup Connections – 'Use user accounts and passwords to connect to other computers'

2) **Windows 7 only – For both Main and Satellites: Add registry entry to allow communication with Windows Vista
and Windows XP computers**

Using a Registry Editor, enter the following (if the key does not already exist. If it exists, leave the setting as-is)…
Add to 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE – System – CurrentControlSet – Control – Lsa': add a DWORD named
'LmCompatibilityLevel'.
Modify: Set value to '1'.

3) **On the 'Main' computer only - Share the 'RPM_Data' folder and set access permissions**

3a) **Windows 7 and Vista:**

- Access the c:\RPM_Data folder. Right-click the folder. Choose 'Properties – Sharing tab - Advanced – Share
This Folder (check the checkbox) – Apply - OK'.

- Access the c:\RPM_Data folder. Right-click the folder. Choose 'Properties – Security'. Check to see if user
'everyone' exists <u>and</u> has 'Full Control'. If user 'everyone' does not exist, click 'Edit', 'Add'. In the 'Enter the
object names…' box, type 'everyone' – then click 'check names'. The user name will become underlined.
Click 'OK'.

   In the 'Permissions for RPM_Data' screen, click to highlight the 'everyone' user, then click on 'Full Control'.
   All checkboxes below will become checked. Click 'Apply'. Repeat for all other users in the 'Group or User
   Name' box. This gives all users full control of the files in the RPM_Data folder. Click 'OK' to exit.

3b) **Windows XP:**

- Access the c:\RPM_Data folder. Use 'Properties – Share this folder – RPM_Data – Allow others to change'.

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4) **Point all computers to the Main computer's AuctionRPM.mdb, located in Main computer's 'RPM_Data' folder.**

    5a) **Main computer:**

- No re-pointing necessary – Default AuctionRPM database is located at 'c:\RPM_Data\AuctionRPM.mdb'.

    5b) **Satellite computers:**

- Start AuctionRPM. Click on 'Tools – Advanced – Set Active Database'.
- On screen-left, double-click on 'Network' or 'My Network Places' (you may have to scroll down to see this option).

- Windows 7 / Vista: Continue in screen-left and double-click the computer that holds the 'main' AuctionRPM database. In the large box, click 'RPM_Data', then select 'AuctionRPM.mdb' (click AuctionRPM.mdb twice to select it).

- Windows XP: In the large box, click (even if the actual path is seen in the large box) 'Entire Network', 'Microsoft Windows Network', Workgroup name – Main computer name – 'RPM_Data' – 'AuctionRPM.mdb' (click AuctionRPM.mdb twice to select it).

- Click 'Yes to save the setting. AuctionRPM will restart shortly.
- To check your work, click on 'Help – About'. Note the database path. If incorrect, re-point to the correct database.

5) **Anti-Virus programs**

If the installed anti-virus program asks whether to block or unblock any AuctionRPM operating program (generally 'AA_Launch' and 'AA_Main'), please 'unblock' or 'always allow' these programs.